
March 8-9, 2007

Medicare in the 21st Century: Changing beneficiary profile

ISSUE: The profile of Medicare beneficiaries is likely to change in important ways over the coming decades. As the beneficiary profile changes, beneficiaries' needs and preferences for health care also will change. In response, Medicare may need to change to better serve future beneficiaries.

KEY POINTS: Some of the changes in the beneficiary profile that could have important implications for the Medicare program include: a greater proportion with several chronic conditions, a lower proportion with disabilities, a greater proportion that are obese, fewer with employer-sponsored insurance, a different racial profile, more years of formal education, changes in per capita income and the distribution of income, and adult children being a less viable option for providing custodial care.

ACTION: Staff seeks the Commissioners' technical questions, comments, and guidance on the direction of the work.

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